

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SIG-03 ARA-14 NEA-10 L-03
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DRAFTED BY AF/P:BARUSSELL:MR
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BONN
XMT AMEMBASSY FREETOWN
AMEMBASSY LOME
AMEMBASSY BANGUI
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY ACCRA
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY KIGALI
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
AMEMBASSY MBABANE
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO
AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE
AMEMBASSY GABORONE

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E.O. 11652: N/A
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TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING, MARCH 17, 1978

FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE NOON
BRIEFING, MARCH 17, 1978:

LES KINSOLVING TRIED TO RELATE OUR CONCERN RE CUBANS IN ANGOLA AND ETHIOPIA WITH OUR ACCEPTANCE OF SYRIANS IN LEBANON. HODDING RESPONDED BY SAYING THAT WE ARE PARTICULARLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE INTRODUCTION OF EXTRA-CONTINENTAL FORCES.

HODDING WAS ASKED IF WE HAD ANY INFORMATION ON THE STATE OF CUBAN ACTIVITY IN ETHIOPIA, NOTABLY THE REPORTS OF CUBAN TROOPS MOVING TO ERITREA? HE SAID WE HAVE NO CONFIRMATION OF THE REPORTS. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ON THE NUMBER OF CUBAN MILITARY PERSONNEL IN ETHIOPIA, HE ACKNOWLEDGED SOME INCREASE BUT SAID HE DID NOT HAVE AN EXACT FIGURE. HE OFFERED TO TRY TO GET ONE.

ON THE RHODESIA TALKS HODDING SAID:

WE AND THE BRITISH CONTINUE TO BELIEVE IT WOULD BE OF GREAT VALUE IF THE PARTIES WOULD COME TOGETHER ON A SETTLEMENT PROCESS WHICH WOULD INVOLVE ALL OF THEM AND WHICH IS CONSISTENT WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PLAN. WE RECOGNIZE THE DIFFICULTIES INHERENT IN THIS. WE NEVER THOUGHT IT WOULD BE EASY. WE RECOGNIZE SOME OF THE ATTITUDES WHICH HAVE BEEN EXPRESSED PUBLICLY. WE DO NOT INTEND, HOWEVER, TO STOP TRYING. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT THE POSSIBILITY EXISTS FOR SUCH A MEETING.

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THE BRITISH DID ARRANGE A MEETING BETWEEN JOHN GRAHAM, A DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY IN THE FOREIGN OFFICE, AND JACK GAYLARD, SECRETARY TO THE CABINET OF MR. SMITH IN PRETORIA TODAY. AN OFFICER OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN PRETORIA SAT IN ON THE MEETING. THE MEETING WAS ANOTHER IN A SERIES OF CONTACTS WITH THE PRINCIPAL PARTIES TO THE DISPUTE IN WHICH WE AND THE BRITISH HAVE EXPLAINED OUR THINKING IN PROPOSING A MEETING OF ALL THE PARTIES. WE ARE INFORMED THAT MR. GRAHAM WILL BE AVAILABLE TO MEET WITH THE REV. SITHOLE SHOULD HE WANT TO COME TO PRETORIA DURING GRAHAM'S STAY. I DON'T KNOW IF SUCH A MEETING TOOK PLACE. THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING WAS TO CONTINUE DISCUSSION OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN SUGGESTION FOR THE ALL-PARTIES MEETING.

HODDING WAS ASKED ABOUT THE U.S. POSITION ON SMITH'S ATTENDING THE ALL-PARTIES MEETING AND HE TOOK THE QUESTION. VANCE

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